AI TOOLS

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Prompts or ways I used AI (chatGpt)

- Give me a basic MERN job portal structure for applicants and recruiters.
- Fix applied button not showing after reload.
- How to protect recruiter routes separately from applicant routes?
- Help me with setting applied status dynamically after applying.
- Best way to show loading states and error handling in React and Node.js.

How it helped (or didn't):

- It gave me fast boilerplate code for both frontend and backend which I was able to adapt to my needs quickly.
- It guided me through complex use cases like handling user roles (applicant vs recruiter) cleanly.
- It helped fix bugs (like applied status vanishing on reload) which would have taken longer to debug alone.
- **Didn't help**: Sometimes the AI assumed things about my database schema that were different, so I had to correct it manually.

Manual changes I made after using the tool:

- Updated the API routes and backend models to match my real MongoDB schema.
- Refactored the Navbar logic to conditionally show recruiter vs applicant views properly based on localStorage user role.
- Added error handling for missing tokens, invalid user roles, and network failures.
- Styled the UI better manually using Tailwind CSS for consistency.
- Fixed useEffect dependencies manually to prevent infinite loops and wrong re-renders.